(c) and (d) Efforts have been made for improvement of various activities of the scheme. As far as agricultural equipments are concerned the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal is mainly engaged in development of prototype of agricultural tools and implements some of which are sold to the farmers. During 2007-08 tools and implements worth Rs.93.52 lakh were sold against Rs.41.94 lakh during 2006-07. As far as sale of seeds and nursery plants are concerned the availability of seeds through ATICs has increased from 2.70 lakh quintal during 2006-07 to 4.10 lakh quintal during 2007-08. The availability of planting material has increased in 18 ATICs. The ATICs do not have facility for testing of seed. Overall the number of farmers availing various advisory services increased from 3.50 lakh during 2006-07 to 4.07 lakh during 2007-08.

Compensation for agricultural crop

1272. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government has any plan to consider one village as one unit for the purpose of paying compensation for agriculture crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is in operation since rabi 1999-2000, is an 'area' based scheme. As per provisions in the scheme, the implementing States/UTs can notify any unit area of insurance including village for the implementation of the scheme. However, the States/UTs will have to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) for making assessment of the yield at village level.

Opening of chemist shops by Government

†1273. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to open a chemist shop in every district in the country where 350 essential medicines would be sold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those 350 essential medicines that would be made available in these shops and how much less their prices would be as compared to medicines sold in open market; and

(d) by when these shops would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Government has decided to open "jan aushadhi" generic drug stores in the country depending upon the financial assistance and other support offered by respective State Governments. The first District Generic Store in the name of "jan aushadhi" has been opened at Civil Hospital, Amritsar (Punjab) on 25-11-08. The list of medicines is finalized in consultation with State Governments. A Comparative list of some of the medicines indicating average market price and "jan aushadhi" price is given in the Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi